

The governor has pledged to work with the Dare County Commssioners to find a solution for at least part of the season if the feds don't come through. "I'm confident we can find a solution to get us through the season, but we have to work together," she said.

In the meantime, the dredge CURRITUCK will move quickly to open the inlet as much as possible.

Col. Jefferson M. Ryscavage, a commander with the Corps, said, "I visited the Oregon Inlet with Governor Perdue Monday, and understand her concern about the severe shoaling in the inlet. We have scrubbed our dredging schedule. At this time, we have an opportunity to move our split-hull dredge CURRITUCK into Oregon Inlet on the 16th of April. We have sufficient funds to keep CURRITUCK there for 30 days, working 24 hours a day."

According to the Corps, the advantages of using the CURRITUCK are threefold:

- CURRITUCK is well suited to 24 hour operations, thus it can move about 11,600 cubic yards of material daily, as opposed to the MERRITT's 6,000 cy/day capacity.
- CURRITUCK is able to carry dredged material further away from the navigation channel, making its dredging efforts more effective.
- CURRITUCK can deposit dredged material in deep water south of the Bonner Bridge navigation span, which can indirectly serve to shore up the bridge structure.

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